

REMARKS

Status of Application

Claims 7, 11-14 and 22 are all the claims pending in the Application. By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1-6, 8-10, 15-21 and 23-25 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 8-10, 16-19, 20 and 23-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by the Examiner as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,604,522 to Miura et al. Claims 1, 8-10, 16-19, 20 and 23-25 are canceled, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-6, 15, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miura et al. in view of Kitahara (JP 2001-277524). Claims 2-6, 15, and 21 are canceled, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowance of claims 7, 11-14 and 22.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

This Application is being filed via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS).

Applicants herewith petition the Director of the USPTO to extend the time for reply to the above-identified Office Action for an appropriate length of time if necessary. Any fee due under 37 U.S.C. § 1.17(a) is being paid via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). The USPTO is also directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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